



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 29, 2024

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Non-Public School Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. Diane Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent  
Division of Business, Health, and Library Services 

**SUBJECT:** Section 31aa (MCL 388.1631aa) Student Mental Health and Safety  
Funding for Fiscal Year 2025

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is announcing a funding opportunity through Section 31aa of [Public Act 120 of 2024](#) (see page 45) for fiscal year (FY) 2025. This \$26.5 million in funding provides payments to intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), non-public schools, and the Michigan School for the Deaf to improve student mental health and student safety. To receive funding under this section, eligible recipients can opt in and agree through the Grant Electronic Monitoring System/Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS) via [MiLogin](#) beginning September 3, 2024. The process to opt in will close at **11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) November 1, 2024**. 31aa funds will be disbursed by December 31, 2024 on a per-pupil basis.

MDE will hold a webinar on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 4 p.m. to provide information about the amended requirements of Section 31aa for FY 2025. [Join the webinar on Zoom](#) and use conference code is 354950.

### **31aa Allowable Expenditures for FY 2025**

#### Mental Health

- Hiring or contracting for support staff for student mental health needs, including, but not limited to, school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and school nurses.
- Purchasing and implementing mental health screening tools.
- Purchasing a statewide, integrated technology platform, such as bhworks, that streamlines behavioral health documentation and care coordination.

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- Providing school-based mental health personnel access to consultation with behavioral health clinicians to respond to complex student mental health needs.
- Purchasing and implementing an online behavioral health tool moderated and led by licensed behavioral health professionals.
- Hiring or contracting a behavioral health coordinator.
- Evidence-based trainings to support mental health.
- Costs associated with collaboration between school employees, families, and community partners to address the academic, behavioral, and social needs of all students through collaborative partnerships, resource coordination, data collection, and data sharing.
- Costs associated with conducting a systemic school mental health needs assessment and resource mapping that identifies programmatic and systematic needs and helps staff determine priorities and create action plans.

### School Safety

- Coordinating with local law enforcement.
- Training for school staff on threat assessment.
- Training for school staff and students on threat response.
- Training for school staff on crisis communication.
- Safety infrastructure, including, but not limited to, cameras, door blocks, hardened vestibules, window screening, and technology necessary to operate buzzer systems. This may also include firearm detection software that integrates with existing security cameras to detect and alert school personnel and first responders to visible firearms on school property.
- Age-appropriate training for students and families on responsible firearm ownership, including safe handling and safe storage of firearms.
- School resource officers.
- Student Safety Management System, the information technology platform, and related services to improve student safety by mitigating cyberbullying, school violence, human trafficking, and self-harm that supports students from grades K-12.
- A secure platform, administered by Michigan State Police, for partners to house all school safety-related items.
  - Emergency Operation Procedure (EOP) templates.
  - Emergency Operation Procedure (EOP) guidance.
  - Reference documents.
  - Security assessments.
- A contract with a vendor for a comprehensive safety and security assessment or a comprehensive safety and security event assessment in schools operated by the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan School for the Deaf.
- An emergency response system.

31aa funds can also be used for emergency infrastructure needs to respond to an immediate threat to the health or safety of students and staff in the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan School for the Deaf. A district,

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intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan School for the Deaf shall not expend funds for this purpose without first obtaining approval from the department.

Recipients of 31aa funds will be required to submit an expenditure report in GEMS/MARS no later than June 1, 2025. Please direct questions to [mde-31aa@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-31aa@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments